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ABSTRACT

An integrated curriculum allows children's learning in all traditional subject areas to occur primarily through projects that the teachers plan and that reflect children's interests. This paper presents a curriculum web on Chinese festivals, specifically, the Chinese New Year, for kindergarten and first grade levels. The paper first presents a teacher brainstorm of a curriculum web on celebrating Chinese festivals, and then presents the thematic web for the subtopic Chinese New Year, which includes the origin of the festival, things people do, special activities, foods people eat, clothing, greetings, and the animal of the year from the Chinese zodiac. Next, the paper lists the curriculum subject areas and learning activities for the New Year subtopic: reading-listening-speaking; writing; math; science; art; social studies; music; and movement. Key events for the unit are then listed, including book making, field trips, dragon making, dragon parade, display center, and party. A student evaluation checklist for each of the subject areas is included. Two appendices contain a story map and a description of the origins of the Chinese New Year and its customs. (HTH)

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ED 382 402

An Integrated Curriculum for Kindergarten/First Grade Children Utilizing Project Approach

Topic: Celebrating Chinese Festivals
Curriculum Web of Subtopic: Chinese New Year

Yuehkuei Hsu

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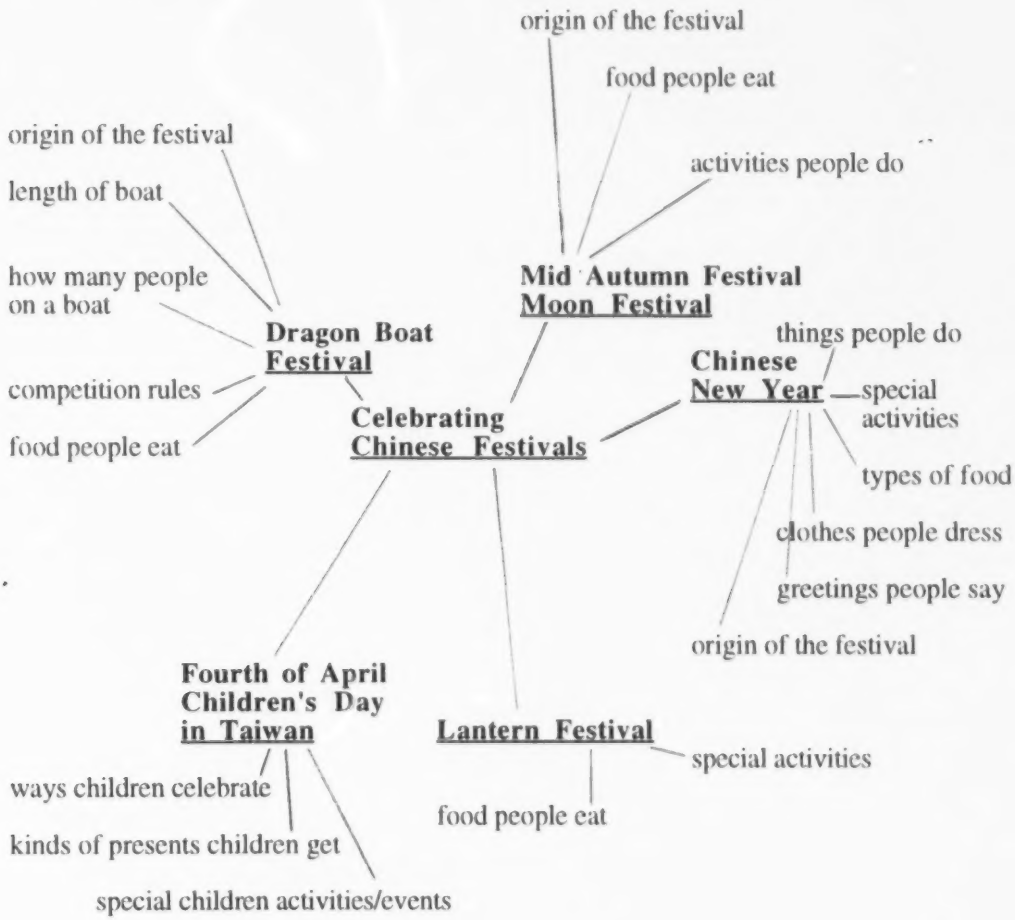
Purpose of the study

The curriculum is integrated so that children's learning in all traditional subject areas occurs primarily through projects that teacher plan and that reflect children's interests. Teachers guide children's involvement in projects and enrich the learning experience by engaging them in conversation, investigation, and also challenging their thinking.

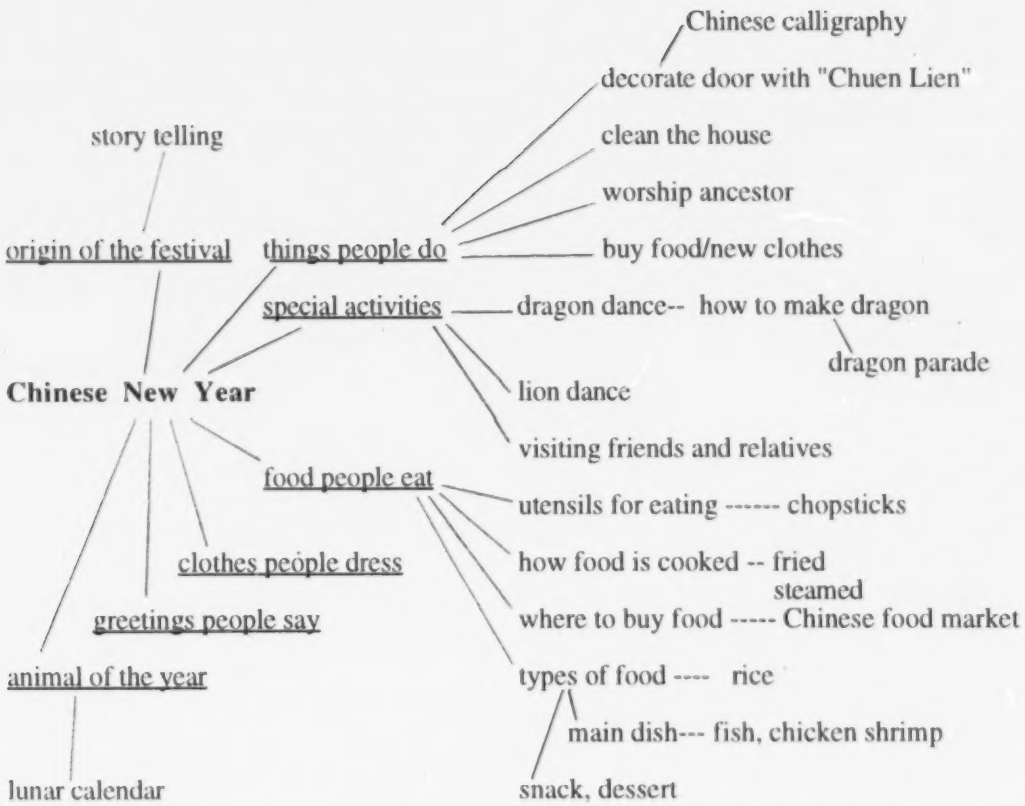
I. Group: Kindergarten/first grade

Topic: Celebrating Chinese Festivals

II. Teacher Brainstorm/ Curriculum Web



III. Curriculum Web of Subtopic: Chinese New Year



IV. Curriculum subject areas and learning activities of subtopic: Chinese New Year

Subject Area	Learning Activities	Skills Children Learn
Reading/ Listening/ Speaking	*Shared reading-- **Lion dancer** --prereading activities --discuss questions --point to Chinese characters in the book and talk about how Chinese characters(words) look different from English *Read their names written in Chinese *Independent reading *Story mapping of "Lion Dancer" --characters --settings --key events --resolution (see Appendix A)	*ask questions *describe observations *name common objects *speak clearly & politely *enjoy being read to *visual discrimination *notice different forms between English and Chinese
Writing	*Write names in Chinese using brush (teacher laminate the finished work so children can keep permanently) *Write a story about Chinese New Year *Make their own books by writing their names in Chinese and read it *Write down questions they want to know about Chinese New Year *Write their journals after visiting Chinese Food Market and Chinese restaurant	*identify names in Chinese *develop eye-hand coordination *verbalize their own expressions
Math	Before and after the whole class make the dragon, they discuss: *How long a dragon could be? (use real object as unit of measurement such as paper clip, eraser...) *How many people do we need to go under a dragon? *How much time does it take to make a dragon by the whole class? *How many colors are there in in the dragon? *What color appears most often?	 *able to measure using real objects *able to predict *color identification *able to count *able to sort and categorize

Science	*Bake Chinese dessert/snack (Label all ingredients)	*able to measure the correct amount of ingredient according to the recipe *touch and feel different ingredient *respect and value food of different culture *learn what the food is made of *learn the sequence of baking snacks *learn that the food changes
	*Pick up mini cookies using chopsticks --How many cookies you can get each time? --Who get the most cookies? --Who get the least cookies?	
Art	*Make a dragon(cooperative project) *Paint a dragon	*develop color identification
	*Draw a picture of "Chinese New Year" *Talk about and write down what they draw and paint (teacher can write for them)	*enjoy painting and drawing *able to discuss *verbalize own experiences, needs, and wants
Social Studies	*Story telling: the origin of Chinese New Year (see Appendix B)	*enjoy listening
	*A field trip to nearby Chinese Food Market	*learn where Chinese food comes from and what it is made of
	*A field trip to nearby Chinese restaurant	*know different food Chinese people eat *learn how to use chopsticks *learn different ways Chinese food is cooked
	*Invite guest speakers to be interviewed by the class	*plan and write down questions
	*Watch a video related to Chinese New Year	*able to discuss and ask questions politely
	*How rice is planted? --What clothes do farmers wear?	*learn the process of planting rice

Music	*Listen to Chinese children songs	*enjoy listening *appreciate music of a different culture *tell the difference between Chinese children songs and the songs they used to hear
Movement	*Have a Chinese Dragon Parade!	*enjoy playing *understand the importance or working together in the parade *know different movement in the dragon parade

V. Key Events

A. Book Making

1. Children write their names in Chinese
2. Write a story about Chinese New Year
3. Write down what they want to know about Chinese New Year
4. Write down questions they have to ask the interviewer

B. Field trips

1. A field trip to the nearby Chinese Food Market
2. A field trip to the nearby Chinese restaurant
   * Before the field trips, teacher and students discuss what to look for, for example:
     --What are the types of food and snacks Chinese people eat?
     --What does a Chinese restaurant look like?
     --How does Chinese food taste?

C. Making a Dragon (Art Project)

* Before making the dragon, teacher and students discuss about:
  --how long should the dragon be?
  --relative size of the parts such as body, tails, legs.
  --kinds of materials to be used.

D. Have a Chinese Dragon Parade

E. Have a Chinese New Year Display Center

* Teacher and students work together to decide what should be included in the center, things might be:
  --Chinese crafts
  --Children made books, journals, children's works and samples
  --related tapes, video, books

F. Have a Chinese New Year Party

* Invite parents and guests
* Have a Chinese New Year Display Center available
* Enjoy Chinese food and snacks made by children, teacher, and parents

VI. Evaluation (Checklist)

Content Area	Checklist	
Reading/ Listening/ Speaking	Children is able to	--ask questions --speak clearly and politely --enjoy reading and being read to --classify objects and pictures --predict what will happen next --listen to story and retell --describe pictures
Writing	Children is able to	--develop eye-hand coordination --recognize own name in Chinese --verbalize own experiences, needs, and wants --make and describe observation --recognize that writing can entertain and inform --enjoy learning Chinese characters
Math	Children is able to	--measure using real objects as units --identify colors --predict --count --sort and categorize colors
Science	Children is able to	--touch and feel different ingredients --respect and value food of different culture --learn what Chinese food is made of --learn the sequence of baking snack --learn that the food changes after baking

Art	Children is able to	--develop color identification --develop fine and motor functioning --enjoy painting and drawing --discuss and share ideas --verbalize own experience, needs, and wants --work cooperatively with others in the dragon project
Social Studies	Children is able to	--learn where Chinese food comes from and what it is made of --know different food Chinese people eat --learn how to use chopsticks --learn different ways Chinese food is cooked --plan and write down own questions --discuss and ask questions politely
Music	Children is able to	--enjoy listening to Chinese children songs --appreciate music of a different culture
Movement	Children is able to	--enjoy playing --work cooperatively during the parade --know different movement in a dragon parade

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APPENDIX A

Story Map of "Lion Dancer"

Story Elements

Characters

Setting

Key events

Resolution

APPENDIX B

The Origin of Chinese New Year

1. Introduction

The origin of Chinese New Year came from an ancient Chinese legend. It was told that during the ancient time, monsters (which we called "Nien") were likely to come out to attack and hurt people on a certain night, people were so afraid that they might be killed, they feared that they might not see each other again; therefore, the whole family would have the final big dinner together the night before the monsters attacked. Knowing that the monsters were afraid of blood and, for that matter, redness, people pasted red paper all around the front and the back door. When the night came, they closed and locked the door and went to bed early, frightened. When they woke up the next morning, they were happy to know that they were still alive. They congratulated everyone they saw.

2. Today's Chinese New Year (usually in February)

Today, there are many customs during Chinese Lunar New Year--one of the most important festivals in Chinese society. On the New Year's Eve, the whole family will get together to have a big dinner. Usually they sit in a circle around a table, which symbolizes a perfect get together. There are some special foods that seem to have special meanings according to their similar sounds, for examples, "chicken" means to start a family; "sweet cakes" mean to make progress; "fish "means to have money and food all the year round. Some people put one coin in the dumplings. The person eats the dumpling with the coin in it will be the most lucky person in the next year. After the dinner, the children will receive lucky money from the parents. On the day of Lunar New Year, everybody gets up early and dresses up. People believe that they will get the best they want in the coming year if they get up early that day. People say congratulations to one another. Candies and a varieties of snacks are served in each family.

3. Conclusions

Chinese New Year is really an interesting and meaningful festival. It reminds Chinese people to appreciate family reunions, the harvest of the seasons, and a new perspective for the coming year.